

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 265464

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, KS

SUBJECT: SEN CRANSTON AND REP FRASER ANNOUNCE

PROTEST TO PRESIDENT PARK

1. SENATOR CRANSTON AND REP FRASER ISSUED JOINT PRESS
RELEASE OCTOBER 27 ANNOUNCING THAT 153 MEMBERS OF CON-
GRESS HAVE SENT PROTEST CONCERNING MYONGDONG SENTENCING
TO PRESIDENT PARK. TEXT OF RELEASE IS AS FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE: 153 MEMBERS OF CONGRESS PROTEST SENTENCING
OF SOUTH KOREANS

SEN. ALAN CRANSTON (D-CALIF) AND REP DONALD M FRASER
(D-MINN) TODAY RELEASED TWO LETTERS TO PRESIDENT PARK
CHUNG-HEE OF SOUTH KOREA, SIGNED BY 153 SENATORS AND
CONGRESSMEN, EXPRESSING "PROFOUND DISTRESS" OVER THE
SENTENCING OF 18 PROMINENT SOUTH KOREANS FOR CRITICIZING
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PAGE 02 STATE 265464

THE GOVERNMENT AND URGING THAT THE SENTENCES BE RECON-

SIDERED OR REMITTED. THE LETTERS SAID THAT, "THIS ARBITRARY ACTION AGAINST THESE DISTINGUISHED KOREAN PATRIOTS ... HAS SERIOUSLY ERODED THE CLOSE TIES WHICH HAVE UNITED OUR TWO COUNTRIES, ... AND UNDERMINES THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR COMMON DETERMINATION TO RESIST NORTH KOREAN AGGRESSION AND SUBVERSION."

THE SENTENCES, RANGING FROM TWO TO EIGHT YEARS, WERE IMPOSED BY A SOUTH KOREAN COURT ON AUGUST 23, 1976 FOR 18 POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS AND ACADEMIC LEADERS FOR THEIR PART IN A DECLARATION WHICH STATED THAT DEMOCRACY SHOULD BE RESTORED IN SOUTH KOREA IN ORDER TO RESIST NORTH KOREA EFFECTIVELY. AMONG THOSE SENTENCED ARE YUN PO-SUN, THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF SOUTH KOREA; KIM DAE-JUNG, PRESIDENT PARK'S OPPONENT IN THE LAST PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION; CHUNG IL-HYUNG, FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER; AND SEVERAL CATHOLIC PRIESTS AND PROTESTANT CLERGYMEN.

IN RELEASING THE TWO LETTERS, CRANSTON AND FRASER SAID, "MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TOOK THE INITIATIVE OF SENDING THESE LETTERS TO PRESIDENT PARK PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF CONCERN SHOWN BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT, WHICH MADE NO COMMENT AT ALL WHEN REPORTERS ASKED FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION ON THE SENTENCING. THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S SILENCE IN THIS CASE ESTABLISHES A DOUBLE STANDARD FOR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT REGARDING POLITICAL TRIALS BY REPRESSIVE REGIMES IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE DEPARTMENT ISSUED A STRONGLY CRITICAL STATEMENT AT THE TIME OF THE LENINGRAD HIJACKING TRIAL IN THE SOVIET UNION IN 1971.

THE TWO LETTERS, SIGNED BY 18 SENATORS AND 135 REPRESENTATIVES, ARE ATTACHED WITH THE LIST OF SIGNATORIES.
END QUOTE.

3. QUOTE: SEPTEMBER 30, 1976, U.S. SENATE, WASH DC
HIS EXCELLENCY PARK CHUNG-HEE
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
SEOUL

DEAR PRESIDENT PARK:
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PAGE 03 STATE 265464

WE WISH RESPECTFULLY TO CONVEY TO YOU OUR PROFOUND DISTRESS AT THE RECENT COURT DECISION SENTENCING EIGHTEEN PROMINENT POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS AND ACADEMIC LEADERS TO PRISON TERMS -- RANGING FROM TWO TO EIGHT YEARS -- FOR SIGNING A STATEMENT CALLING FOR THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY IN SOUTH KOREA.

THIS ARBITRARY ACTION AGAINST THESE DISTINGUISHED KOREAN PATRIOTS AS PART OF A PATTERN OF DISREGARD FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY HAS SERIOUSLY ERODED THE CLOSE TIES WHICH HAVE UNITED OUR TWO COUNTRIES. FURTHER, IT UNDERMINES THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR COMMON DETERMINATION TO RESIST NORTH KOREAN AGGRESSION AND SUBVERSION.

WE URGE YOU TO REVIEW AND RECONSIDER THESE ACTIONS.

WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE POOR HEALTH OF KIM DE JUNG, ONE OF THE EIGHTEEN SENTENCED, AND REQUEST THAT HE RECEIVE THE NECESSARY MEDICAL CARE.

SINCERELY:

CRANSTON, CHURCH, BROOKE, MC GOVERN, HUMPHREY, PELL, BAYH, ABOUREZK, CLARK, RODINO, HASKELL, BEALL, GRAVEL, HATHAWAY, TUNNEY, HART, JOHNSTON, HATFIELD, HART.
UNQUOTE

4. LETTER FROM THE HOUSE:

QUOTE: CONGRESS OF THE US, HOUSE OF REPS, WASH DC
OCTOBER 6, 1976

HIS EXCELLENCY CHUNG-HEE PARK
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
SEOUL

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

WE, MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPS, RESPECTFULLY WISH TO CONVEY TO YOU OUR PROFOUND DISTRESS AT THE RECENT COURT DECISION SENTENCING EIGHTEEN PROMINENT POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS AND ACADEMIC LEADERS TO PRISON TERMS RANGING FROM TWO TO EIGHT YEARS FOR SIGNING A STATEMENT CALLING FOR THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY IN SOUTH KOREA.
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THIS ARBITRARY ACTION AGAINST THESE DISTINGUISHED KOREAN PATRIOTS AS PART OF A PATTERN OF DISREGARD FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY HAS SERIOUSLY ERODED THE CLOSE TIES WHICH HAVE UNITED OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

FURTHERMORE, IT UNDERMINES THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR COMMON DETERMINATION TO RESIST NORTH KOREAN AGGRESSION AND SUBVERSION.

WE RESPECTFULLY URGE THAT THESE SENTENCES BE REMITTED.
SINCERELY YOURS, /SIGNED BY 135/
UNQUOTE.

5. THE LETTER FROM EIGHTEEN SENATORS WAS SENT DIRECTLY

TO PRESIDENT PARK ON SEPTEMBER 30. THE HOUSE LETTER WAS
TRANSMITTED BY DEPT AIRGRAM DATED OCTOBER 18. REQUEST
EMBASSY REPORT WHEN DELIVERY OF HOUSE LETTER MADE.

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To: SEOUL
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